Agenda Item: 14.

MEMORANDUM

TO THE BOARD:

SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

DATE: October 12, 2017 UPDATED

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager

A. <u>INFORMATION/EDUCATION REPORT</u>: The Information and Education Report detailing Information and Education activities for the month of September 2017, is attached for your review.

B. PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

- 1. The Corp of Engineers sent a commendatory letter to Tom Pleiss following a lease compliance inspection of Chalco Hills Recreation Area on September 13, 2017. The letter stated that the "leased property in all areas was extremely well maintained, clean, neat and appeared in excellent condition." Huge thanks to Bill Warren, Tom and the entire Chalco crew for all of your hard work and commitment. The letter is attached.
- 2. John Wilson, Banquet Chair for the Burt County Pheasants Forever Chapter, sent a thank you note to Terry Schumacher for the NRD's support of its annual banquet. Wilson says the support helps the chapter provide habitat improvement and youth education. The letter is attached.
- 3. Twenty-two members of the Bennington SkillsUSA Club met at Prairie View Lake the morning of Saturday, September 23rd, to clean up trash around the lake. This event is in cooperation with the Papio-Missouri River NRD. The Bennington SkillsUSA chapter is sponsored by Larry Klaus and Tom Schumacher. Thanks to everyone who participated in the event. A photo of members of the club is attached.
- 4. Kenneth "Ross" Hoppock, passed away at the young age of 30, on Sunday, October 1, from an apparent heart attack. Ross was a valued member of the District from October of 2008 through April 2015, where he served as our IT Support Technician. The District has extended condolences to his family. Ross's obituary is attached.
- 5. Matt McBride from Pink Gorilla Events sent an email to Eric Williams to thank Papio for its continued support of the Market to Market Relay, saying "Know that this isn't possible without your help." Thanks for your hard work, Eric. The email is attached.
- 6. The District included \$222,000 in the FY 2018 Budget for the construction of an O/M Equipment Shed south of the existing O/M Building at Chalco Hills. This will be a 75 ft. by 200 ft. post frame shed with one open side and will be used to store O/M equipment, such as tractors, trailers, mowers and heavy equipment. District staff are scheduled to start tree

removal on the site the week of October 16th to make way for soil borings. There is 17 ft. of grade change on the current site, so fill material will be hauled in and compacted by District staff to make the building site level. The shed construction work will be competitively bid in November for Board approval of a contractor in December 2017 and construction would commence in spring 2018. A location map and several photos are attached.

- C. REPORT ON PURCHASES CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY: Pursuant to Board direction, the report indicating construction services, professional services and personal property purchases from the month of September 2017, is attached for your review. Please review this report and contact me if you have any questions.
- **D.** CURRENT AND ON-GOING PROJECTS P-MRNRD LEGAL COUNSEL: A copy of current and on-going projects for District Legal Counsel, Husch Blackwell, as of September 18, 2017, is attached for your review. I would ask each Director to review this report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
- **E.** PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP REPORT: The minutes to the September 28, 2017, Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Subcommittee meeting are attached. The next Partnership meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2017.

F. PRINT, BROADCAST AND SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Phragmites Aerial Spraying
 - o **Print** September 6, 2017, *Omaha World-Herald*, "Spraying targets invasive, noxious vegetation in lower Platte River in eastern Nebraska"
 - September 12, 2017, Douglas County Post-Gazette, "NRD begins aerial spraying to rid lower Platte River of invasive vegetation"
 - o **Broadcast** KETV (Sept. 6), KETV-ME (Oct. 3), KIOS (Sept. 6), KPTM (Sept. 6)
- ✓ Graske Crossing Vandalism
 - o **Print** September 9, 2017, *Omaha World-Herald*, "Vandalism hinders canoe access on Elkhorn"
 - KETV.com (Oct. 3)
 - o **Broadcast** KFAB (Sept. 8), WOWT (Sept. 8)
- ✓ September 14, 2017, *Omaha World-Herald*, "Papio-Missouri River NRD subcommittee recommends 2018 budget for approval"
- ✓ September 14, 2017, *Omaha World-Herald*, "Elkhorn River access site reopens after vandalism"
- ✓ September 16, 2017, *Omaha World-Herald*, "Papio-Missouri River NRD board Oks \$66.7 million budget"
- ✓ September 17, 2017, *Grand Island Independent*, "Committee brainstorms riverfront development"
- September 20, 2017, *Bellevue Leader*, "What is economic development? It all depends with whom you're speaking"
- ✓ September 20, 2017, *Gretna Guide-News*, "New housing development and lake for Gretna"
- ✓ September 27, 2017, *Gretna Breeze*, "Lakeview development moves forward with Council approval"

- ✓ September 28, 2017, *Dakota County Star*, "Dakota City welcomes PMRNRD Board of Directors"
- ✓ September 29, 2017, *Midlands Business Journal*, "Nebraskans riding with national bike commuter trends"
- ✓ <u>Platte River Bridge</u>
 - o **Print** October 10, 2017, Omaha World-Herald, "Path over Platte to preserve link between Sarpy, Cass Counties"
 - October 3, 2017, Bellevue Leader, "Hiking/biking trail to be constructed over Platte River"
 - KETV.com (Oct. 3)
 - o **Broadcast** KETV (Oct. 3), KETV-ME (Oct. 3), B103 (Oct. 3)

September 2017 PR/Education Report

Public Relations:

Attended NARD Conference

Media relations and story placement

Solar eclipse glasses donation collection outreach

General Manager's report

Setting up one-on-one meetings with project managers to learn about projects and timelines

Meeting with potential new vendors for brand awareness campaigns

Increasing number of social media posts on all platforms and engaging with "fans."

Responding to constituent questions through the website

Website revisions

Created weekly media placement summaries

Education/Education Programs

9/6/2017	Snakes/Lizards	Arbor Park Elementary -Blair	
9/9/2017	World O! Water	Festival	
9/12/2017	Macros	Papillion-LaVista South High School	
9/12/2017	Insects	Spring Ridge Elementary	
9/13/2017	Insects	West Bay Elementary	
9/14/2017	Nature Night	Oakdale Elementary	
9/15/2017	Reptiles	Sagewood Elementary	
9/18/2017	Geocaching	Holy Cross-Girl Scouts	
9/20/2017	Owls	Festival-Wonderful World Of Water	
9/21/2017	Bugs/Animals/Hike	Parkview Heights Field Trip	
9/22/2017	Environmental History	Rockwell Elementary	
9/22/2017	Bees/Pollination	Rockwell Elementary	
9/26/2017	Owls	JCC-Picnic Area A-Field Trip	
9/26/2017	Macros	Platteview High School	
9/27/2017	Owls	Morton Elementary	
9/27/2017	Geocaching at Ta-Ha-Zouka	Elkhorn Middle School	
9/28/2017	Hike/Animals/Geocaching	Upchurch Elementary Field Trip	

Planning/Coordination:

General NRD Animal Care

MORE Nature Website Updates and Social Media Posts

Nature Nights '17-18: Fall Presenters/Catering/Confirmation Correspondence, Spring Dates/Schools

NRD Programs, Programs Spreadsheet, and Calendar

Edit/Proof Teacher Newsletter

World O! Water: Operation Conservation, Presenters, Set-up/Tear Down, Presentations

Summit Lake Conservation Day & Danish Alps Conservation Day

AmeriCorps Volunteers



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT 1616 CAPITOL AVENUE OMAHA NE 68102-4901



September 20, 2017

Real Estate Division

SUBJECT: 2017 Lease Compliance Inspection, Lease No. DACW45-1-88-6045, Papio Natural Resources District, Papillion Creek and Tributaries, Nebraska

Papio Natural Resource District ATTN: Mr. Tom Pleiss 8901 South 154th Street Omaha, Nebraska 68138

Dear Mr. Pleiss:

A lease compliance inspection was conducted by Corps of Engineers personnel on September 13, 2017. The leased area was inspected by Annette Griffin of my staff and Missouri River Project Natural Resource Specialist, Angel Pletka.

The leased property in all areas was extremely well maintained, clean, neat, and appeared in excellent condition. No major safety issues were observed.

Please provide a current copy of the 3rd party agreement for the Millard Star Association to our office. Also, please indicate the parking space by the vehicle charging station as ADA per your discussion with the compliance team.

Keep up the great work and thank you for your stewardship. Should you have any questions, please contact Annette Griffin at (402) 995-2830/Annette.m.griffin@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Rick L. Noel Chief, Civil Branch

8.50 x 11.00 in

Tarry

I want to thank you and the

Papis - Missouri Rivan NRD for your

Sopport of our annual bounguet.

It takes the support from many

to make possible the things that

to make possible the things that

to accomptish, habitet improvement

and you the ducention. Thanks for

helping make the possible

See you though



Bennington SkillsUSA Club

Nelson - Boylan - LeRette Funeral Chapel



410 Sixth Street Red Oak, Iowa 51566 (712) 623-2525 or (800) 653-4881

Kenneth Hoppock

June 02, 1987 - October 01, 2017

Birthplace: Red Oak, Iowa

Resided In: Lincoln, NE formerly Stanton, IA

Pre-Arranged Services Visitation 10/6/2017

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel

Service 10/7/2017

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel

<u>Details</u> View & Sign Memorial Guestbook



Merchandise

History

Our Services

On-line Arrangements

At the Time of Death

Obituaries Directions

Cocal Services

Kenneth "Ross" Hoppock, age 30, of Lincoln, Nebraska formerly of Stanton, Iowa, died unexpectedly on Sunday, October 1, 2017 at his residence. Ross was born June 2, 1987 in Red Oak, Iowa the son of Steven and Margaret "Meg" (Peterson) Hoppock. He graduated from Stanton Community Schools in 2006 and pursued a degree from Vatterott College in computer technology. Ross worked 5 years with the Papio-Missouri River Resources District in Omaha and was presently employed with NEBCO in Lincoln as their Systems Manager. He especially loved computer gaming with his buddies and when he had the chance, fishing.

Ross was preceded in death by his infant brother: Aaron Peterson Hoppock; his paternal grandparents: Dale and Helen Hoppock; maternal grandparents: Kenneth and Gail Peterson; and aunt: Mrs. Cheryl Hoppock-Cibes. Survivors include his mother: Meg Hoppock of Stanton, IA; father and step-mother: Steve and Georgia Hoppock of Dearing, KS; sister and brother-in-law: Katelynn Hoppock and husband Stuart Cogen of London, United Kingdom; step-brother: Chris Nelson of Coffeyville, KS; his loved adopted family of Lincoln, NE: Trent, Jennifer, and Traven Heiser; his extended Stanton Families; his much loved cat: Piper; and his "eternal brothers": Jake Ashley and Keagan Geer as well as other friends and relatives. May his new family enjoy his infectious giggle and humor as did we.

Funeral services will be held 1:30 PM Saturday, October 7, 2017 at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel in Red Oak, Iowa. Visitation with the family will be held from 5-7 PM Friday, October 6, 2017 at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Memorials are suggested to the American Heart Association. Cremation will take place after the services.

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.



1 You replied to this message on 10/4/2017 1:25 PM.

Hi Eric,

We wanted to thank you for working with us again for this year's Market to Market Relay. It was a great day for Nebraska runners and it wouldn't be possible without your help. Please check out our recap video and photos and know that this isn't possible without your help.

We are always striving for improvement. We'd love any constructive feedback that can improve the relay and/or improve your experience with the relay. Also, we would really love to get on your calendar for next year's race on Saturday, October 6th.

experience with the relay. Also, we would really love to get on your calendar for next year's race on Saturday, October 6th.	
Thanks so much!	

Matt

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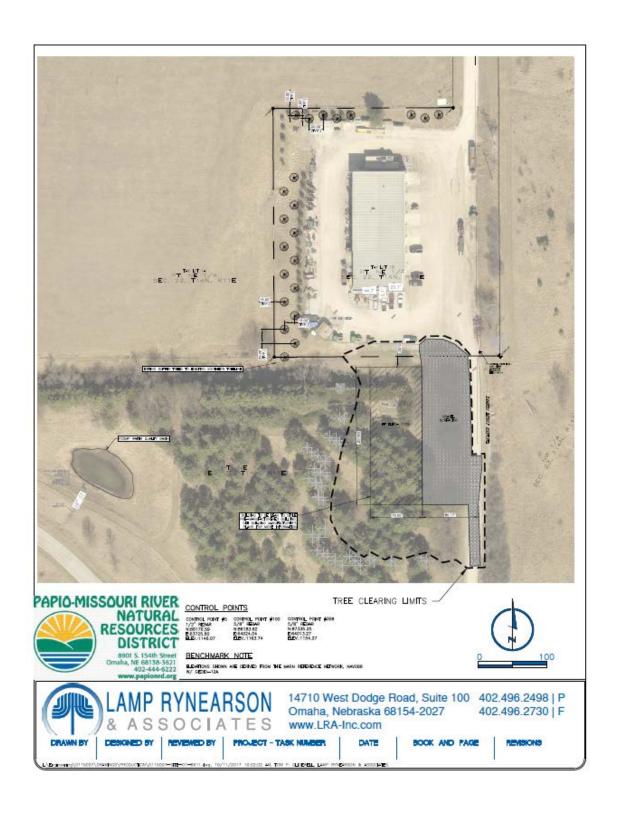
Matt McBride











Report on Purchases Construction Services, Professional Services, Personal Property

September, 2017

Date	Project Name	Item / Task	Company	Cost
9/21/2017	West Branch Channel Project (96 th to Giles)	Bank Stabilization Permitting Services Alfred Benesch and Company		\$11,150
9/22/2017	Big Papio Channel (84 th to F)	Trail Drainage and Stabilization Professional Services	Gonzales Companies	\$29,774
9/22/2017	Little Papio Channel (Blondo to Western)	Trail Drainage and Stabilization Professional Services	Gonzales Companies	\$24,759



Updated: September 18, 2017

Current and On-Going Projects P-MRNRD Legal Counsel

O = Top Priority

F = Future Work - No Assignment

N = New Assignment

O = Others Handling

W = Work in Progress

P = Counsel Portion Completed

B= Next Board Meeting

- Little Papio: (Cleveland)
 - HDR Bank Stabilization Professional Services Contract Amendment (N)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - Culverts Rehab Phase 2 Contract w/ FYRA (N)
 - Culverts Rehab Phase 2 Interlocal w/City of Omaha (B)
- West Branch: (Cleveland)
 - **②** Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (P)
- Western Sarpy Dike: (Cleveland/Petermann)
 - o NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (F)
- Floodway Purchase Program: (Laster/Grint)
 - o Arlington Purchase Agreements, Deeds, etc. Public Hearing (October Board) (W)
- **Trail Projects:** (Williams)
 - o Hwy 34 Bridge Trail Local Funding Interlocal (P)
 - o West Papio Trail, Giles to Millard Potential Tyson Access License Agreement (F)

West Papio Trail, Giles to Millard – Omaha/La Vista Interlocal Amendment for Construction
 (P)

• Missouri River Corridor Project: (Becic)

- Draft Purchase Agreement with Reserved Easement for MUD (Platte River Sites/Missouri River (N)
- USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed: (Schumacher/Cleveland)
 - o Papio PL 566 Site W-2 Issues (F)
 - P/J 12 Professional Services Contract Amendment with Olsson Assoc. (P)
- Papio Watershed Dam Sites: (Grint/Laster/Williams)
 - OS 15A Sanitary Sewer Easements (N)
 - ROW Acquisition Documents for WP6 & WP7 (B)
 - City of Omaha Interlocal Agreement for ZB-2 (W)
 - WP6 & WP7 Interlocal Agreement with Papillion and Sarpy Co. (P)
 - Purchase Agreements and ROW Documents for Z-B2 (B)
 - WP6 & WP7 Professional Services Contract Amendment with FYRA Eng. (W)
 - Partial Easement Release for Prairie Queen LLC (N)
- Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater): (Grint)
- Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership (Stormwater): (Laster)
 - o Interlocal with City of Omaha for Construction Inspections (F)
- Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees: (Cleveland/Woodward)
 - o Offutt AFB Culvert O&M Agreement (W)
 - o ROW Acquisition Documents (F)
- Rural Water Projects: (Nelson)
- Other:
 - **②** Union Dike Trench Drain Construction Contract (Cleveland) (N)
 - **♦** Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Interlocal Agreement (Woodward) (N)
 - Groundwater Management Rules and Regs, Review and Resolutions (Woodward) (W)

Legal Projects/project list/2017/September

PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP





Partnership Meeting September 28, 2017 – 10:00 AM – Board Room Natural Resource Center, 8901 S 154th Street, Omaha, NE

Attendants:

See attached sign-in sheet.

<u>Purpose</u>

A meeting of the Partnership was held on the above date in order to discuss topics stated in the attached agenda. The meeting began at 10:05 am.

1 Introductions

An agenda and handouts were distributed. Marlin Petermann facilitated introductions.

2. Draft Stormwater Management Plan

- Jim Kee stated that Omaha has received some preliminary comments on their draft stormwater management plan. However, the comments addressed previous annual reports and they will be seeking clarification on them. Copies of the comments were provided to those in attendance.
- Amanda Grint stated that Douglas County has modified the SWMP from FHU for the other sMS4s in the state. That draft is more prescriptive than the format Omaha is proposing. Omaha's draft will allow more flexibility in meeting the permit goals and objectives.
- Public Education and Outreach
 - Lori Laster explained that the draft SWMP calls for development of a plan to define the goals, objectives, target audience, and distribution process of materials. In years 2-5, the permittees will report on how the plan is implemented.
 - Andy Szatko is trying to develop some new methods for tracking audiences to categorize who is seeing the messages.
- Public Participation and Involvement
 - Jim Kee explained that it is difficult to have projects for public participated that directly implement stormwater controls. Keep Omaha Beautiful does help with storm inlet marking projects and litter clean up days that can be counted as public participation.
 - Lori Laster stated that the PCWP website is currently being updated and a section on public involvement describing ways can be included to meet this permit requirement. The SWMP and all annual reports will need to be included as well. Proposed rule, ordinance, or regulation changes will need to be handled by each individual community.

















- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)
 - Jim Kee stated that the IDDE portion of the SWMP hasn't changed much from the current SWMP.
 - Omaha received a comment on field screening for IDDE sampling methodology and requirements for sampling every discharge, regardless of appearance. Omaha will be working with NDEQ due to guidance from the Center for Watershed Protection on low-risk discharge.
 - Field staff training is also part of this element. Year 1 call for developing a plan to identify staff that may need to be trained and how they will be trained.
 - Andy Sztako stated that Omaha has purchased several training videos and they would be willing to lend them to communities to satisfy this requirement.

3 Other Items of Interest.

John Kottmann asked if any clarification had been provided from NDEQ on whether or not supporting documentation can be submitted electronically or if hard copies need to be mailed.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held October 26, 2017 at 10 am at the NRC building.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 am. An agenda and the handouts passed out at the meeting are available upon request.

Please contact Lori Laster at 444-6222 regarding any questions or comments concerning these meeting minutes.

U:\Minutes\170126-PCWP minutes.docx

File: 535 "PCWP"

WORLD-HERALD (AM)

OMAHA, Nebraska

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2017

Frequency: DAILY Circulation: 104958

Clip Size: 11.42 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$162.00 Page/Section: B 0005



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Vandalism hinders canoe access on Elkhorn

By Andrew J. Nelson World-Herald Staff Writer

A canoe access park on the Elkhorn River has been shut down after someone vandalized it this week, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District said Friday.

At Graske Crossing, on the southeast corner of West Dodge Road and the river, the vandal or vandals wrecked signs, ripped off toilet seats and damaged trees, the NRD said.

"They cut down or busted over like a 2-inch caliper
tree. They bent up several
signs," said Kyle Winn, the
NRD's land steward. "They
pretty much destroyed the
bathrooms. Everything
hanging up is destroyed,
like the toilet seats."

Winn said the damage was

discovered Friday morning. He expects Graske Crossing to reopen by late next week, as long as he can get supplies for repairs. He estimated that the damage will cost \$2,500 to \$3,000.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is investigating. The NRD asks that anyone with information contact the Sheriff's Office or the NRD office at 402-444-6222.

The park is open only for daytime use, from April 1 through Nov. 1, according to the website of the state's Natural Resources Districts.

The canoe access park is one of three on the Elkhorn River in Douglas County that the Papio-Missouri River NRD operates.

andrew.neison@owh.com, 402-444-1310, twitter.com/neison_aj

http://www.omaha.com/outdoors/spraying-targets-invasive-noxious-vegetation-in-lower-platte-river-in/article 98fdfed8-9270-11e7-86d3-4f4883452651.html

Spraying targets invasive, noxious vegetation in lower Platte River in eastern Nebraska

By Jay Withrow / World-Herald staff writer Sep 5, 2017



The piping plover PHOTO COURTESY OF CNPPID

Officials have begun aerial spraying of invasive, noxious vegetation on the lower Platte River in eastern Nebraska.

The spraying of 500 acres for phragmites and purple loosestrife began Friday near Columbus and was to continue downstream today or Thursday where the Platte meets the Missouri River, officials said.

Precise applications of an aquatic herbicide approved by the Environmental Protection Agency is being done by helicopter.

The area is treated at a cost of about \$180 per acre. Landowners are being asked to cover 50 percent of the cost, officials said.

The lower Platte River is becoming clogged with the weeds, which are robbing eastern Nebraska of critically needed water and wildlife habitat for the threatened and endangered piping plover and least tern, officials said.

10/6/2017 Spraying targets invasive, noxious vegetation in lower Platte River in eastern Nebraska | Outdoors | omaha.com

The Papio-Missouri River, Lower Platte South and Lower Platte North Natural Resource Districts are working with riverside landowners and weed-control authorities on the assault on the noxious plants, officials said.

Taking root on sandbars and shoreline, the plants reproduce rapidly, overtaking much of the natural habitat.

Today and Thursday, the Platte River Landing access site and recreation area near Omaha is scheduled to be closed for the aerial spraying, officials said.

jay.withrow@owh.com, 402-444-1259

DOUGLAS CO. POST-GAZETTE

ELKHORN, Nebraska

Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017

WEEKLY Frequency: 2599 Circulation:

Clip Size: 19.38 sq. inches

\$21.25 Ad Rate:

Page/Section: 1



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NRD begins aerial spraying to rid lower Platte River of invasive vegetation

The Lower Platte River is Colfax, Butler, Platte and Cass our natural resources now and for becoming clogged with invasive Counties. vegetation. Phragmites and Purple have invaded much of the Platte are now robbing eastern Nebraska of critically needed water and and endangered Piping Plover and Least Tern.

Phragmites received a Nebraska emergency designation as a noxious safety is also being jeopardized flooding along the river bordering Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Dodge, safety and the wise management of percent of the cost,

Because of the immediate threat

generations to come.

Aerial spraying will be the first Loosestrife, noxious weeds that of a Phragmites population line of defense against the explosion, the Papio-Missouri infestation. This control will be River across the state of Nebraska, River, Lower Platte South and done on up to 500 acres of selected Lower Platte North NRDs are sandbars in the reach of the Lower joining with riverside landowners Platte River extending from wildlife habitat for the threatened and the eight County Weed Control Columbus, Nebraska (downstream Authorities to begin an assault on of Highway 81) to the Missouri the two invasive noxious plants. River, Very precise applications of Covering the river's sandbars and an EPA approved aquatic herbicide shoreline, these plants reproduce will be made by helicopter utilizing weed in 2008. As the river is rapidly, overtaking much of the GPS technology. Spraying began clogged with vegetation, human lower Platte River's natural habitat. September 5 and will continue until The overall goal of the project is the entire area is treated at a cost of through the increased risk of ice-jam to proactively control the noxious about \$180 per acre. Landowners weeds in order to ensure public are being asked to contribute 50 http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/papio-missouri-river-natural-resources-district-subcommittee-recommends-budget-for/article_07fb3a15-fd48-5b1c-89cf-5c5534d2571a.html

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District subcommittee recommends 2018 budget for approval

By Andrew J. Nelson / World-Herald staff writer 19 hrs ago

A Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District subcommittee on Tuesday unanimously recommended that the full board adopt the proposed 2018 fiscal year budget.

The board will vote Thursday evening at its meeting in Dakota City, Nebraska.

Under the budget, the district would spend \$66.7 million next year, with about \$23.7 million of that coming from property taxes.

The overall budget is down a bit from the 2017 budget, which was \$70.5 million. But the proportion that comes from property taxes would be slightly more — last year it was \$22.8 million.

The district's mill levy will nose down slightly to 3.78 cents per \$100 of valuation.

This means that the owner of a home valued at \$150,000 would pay \$56.70 per year.

A taxpayer's overall bill would be much higher because the NRD is just one of many entities that make up each tax bill.

Even when the property tax rate goes down, a homeowner can pay more if the valuation rises. All of the counties in the district except one had overall valuation increases -6.84 percent for Sarpy and 4.39 percent for Douglas, according to district figures.

The Papio-Missouri River NRD covers Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties and parts of Burt, Thurston and Dakota Counties.

The 2018 budget runs from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018.

andrew.nelson@owh.com, 402-444-1310, twitter.com/nelson_aj

Andrew Nelson

WORLD-HERALD (AM)

OMAHA, Nebraska

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2017

Frequency: DAILY Circulation: 104958

Clip Size: 11.07 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$162.00 Page/Section: B 0002



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Papio-Missouri River NRD board OKs \$66.7 million budget

By JAY WITHROW WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District's board of directors has voted to approve the 2018 fiscal year operating budget. The vote was Thursday night at

The vote was Thursday night at the board's meeting in Dakota City, Nebraska.

Under the budget, the district will spend \$66.7 million next year, with about \$23.7 million of that coming from property taxes.

The overall budget is down a bit from the 2017 budget, which was \$70.5 million. But the proportion that comes from property taxes will be slightly higher — last year, it was \$22.8 million.

The district's levy will drop to 3.78 cents per \$100 of valuation. That means that the owner of a home valued at \$150,000 would pay \$56.70 per year for the NRD.

A subcommittee gave its OK to the budget Tuesday night at a meeting in Omaha.

The 2018 budget runs from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018.

The district covers Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties and parts of Burt, Thurston and Dakota Counties.

WORLD-HERALD (AM)

OMAHA, Nebraska

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Frequency: DAILY Circulation: 104958

Clip Size: 6.92 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$162.00 Page/Section: B 0006

o Commiste 2017 LAB Rights Reserve

Elkhorn River access site reopens after vandalism

By Jay Withrow

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Graske Crossing, the Elkhorn River access site on the southeast corner of West Dodge Road and the river, reopened Wednesday afternoon.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District said it closed the access site last week because of vandalism.

The NRD also said no one

The NRD also said no one had been arrested in connection with the vandalism case.

Anyone with information on the matter is urged to call the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (402-444-6641) or the Papio NRD office (402-444-6222)

INDEPENDENT

GRAND ISLAND, Nebraska

Date: Sunday, September 17, 2017

Frequency: DAILY Circulation: 18543

Clip Size: 18.40 sq. inches

\$25.73 Ad Rate: Page/Section: D 0003



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Committee brainstorms riverfront development

OMAHA (AP)—A planning committee is seeking public input about how to transform riverfront along the Stinson said the group aims to come Resident Kristin Albers, who of-

Missouri River between Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

About 200 people attended a Riverfront Revitalization Planning Comerfront Revitalization Revitalization Planning Comerfront Revitalization Revitalization Planning Comerfront Revitalization R mittee meeting Monday to share what they'd like to see on a large strip of the riverfront, the Omaha World-Herald reported.

Focus areas include Gene Leahy Mall, Lewis & Clark Landing, Heartland of America Park and Tom Hanafam River's Edge Park in Council

up with a plan that results in construction.

The committee has selected the Office of James Burnett as its consultant to create a proposal for the area. Stinson said the Downtown Riverfront Trust will fund the group's more than \$1 million study on the area.

Attendees at the meeting placed stickers next to preferred concepts. Food and beverage kiosks as well as The committee is co-chaired by Ken Stinson, chairman emeritus of most popular amenities. Other ideas

ten bikes in Iowa, said she'd like to see better trails with more curves and shade.

Bay said he's happy the process is moving forward with the help of the consultant and the philanthropic community as well as cooperation from city leaders and the public. "If you fast-forward 10 years, I hope

(the consultant) will be able to, in some other town, show pictures of what happened in Omaha," he said.

The next public meeting is planned for Oct. 26, and final design concepts will be shared in January.



Leader

September 20, 2017 • Volume 7 • Number 38

75 cents

What is economic development?

It all depends with whom you're speaking

By Eugene Curtin

Leader Associate Editor

Part I of a two-part series looking at economic development in Bellevue.

Andrew Rainbolt has nothing against good restaurants.

He might even visit one after trying to persuade some mega industry to locate along the Highway 34 corridor in Bellevue. Big is what he does. Small is what he doesn't do.

"One of the biggest questions I get is why don't we have any good restaurants

in town," Rainbolt said. "I don't do that. It's good to get some clarity about what we all do."

Rainbolt is the executive director of the Sarpy County Economic Development Corporation, which is housed at the offices of the



Rainbol

Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce in downtown Omaha.

The SCEDC is a big part of the effort to bring to Bellevue the jobs and opportunities embraced by the umbrella term new stadium in Papillion and the Oma-"economic development." new stadium in Papillion and the Omaha National Cemetery, built by the U.S.

While the SCEDC is joined in that effort by the City of Bellevue and the Greater Bellevue Area Chamber of Commerce, the three entities have different functions and handle different opportunities.

Department of Veterans Affair cated just over a year ago, was Highway 50 near Springfield.

Metropolitan Community long-term plans to build a sou

"The SCEDC looks at the larger projects — light industrial, major industrial projects, something like the Facebook data center, that kind of category, industrial areas," said Jim Ristow, president of the Bellevue chamber.

"When it comes down to retail and commercial, they really have no interest. If they get that sort of inquiry they punt it to us."

That's the way the city sees it, too, said Larry Burks, assistant city administrator and the city's point man for economic development. But the city, as the governmental body charged with devising zoning regulations and weighing eligibility for such financial incentives as tax increment financing, is likely to be consulted at some point on every project, large or small, even if the SCEDC keeps to itself

the identity of a given prospect.

But it has been a while since the SCEDC had an identity to withhold from Bellevue.

Major American enterprises like Facebook and The Travelers Companies have located sprawling data centers in western Sarpy County, drawn by the proximity of Interstate 80.

The Omaha Storm Chasers built their

new stadium in Papillion and the Omaha National Cemetery, built by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and dedicated just over a year ago, was built along Highway 50 near Springfield.

Metropolitan Community College has long-term plans to build a south campus on 74 acres at the intersection of Highways 50 and 370.

Even Oxbow Animal Health, which stores and distributes hay products and was previously located in tiny Murray south of Plattsmouth, built its new warehouse facility west of Highway 50.

The SCEDC, while eager to see Bellevue grow, promotes the entire county, and if eligible sites are found in central Sarpy County then that's the way it is.

Often, the identity of an industrial prospect is held by the state of Nebraska and not made known even to the SCEDC. In fact, Rainbolt said, the "instinct" of truly large corporations is to first approach the state with its needs and wants.

The state will then contact the Omaha chamber, and if development sites meeting the prospect's needs are found in Sarpy County — which has been in-

creasingly the case - then Rainbolt will be called.

"Typically, we'll get a call that says some mystery company is looking to build a facility somewhere from Denver to St. Louis and from San Antonio to Fargo," Rainbolt said. "That's what we respond to."

Certainly, he said, he would likely

contact the city of Bellevue to see what they can offer.

And there is much to offer. Or could be.

The SCEDC has developed a site-

LB 840 a tool of the economic trade — Page 2

certification program whose designation tells developers a site is fully equipped with water, road and sewer infrastructure and is "shovel ready."

Rainbolt would like to confer that designation on 5,000 acres directly south of Offutt Air Force Base and east of Highway 75, but the acres remain undeveloped farmland, void of necessary infrastructure and, in many cases, closely held by farmers.

"We were losing prospects because we didn't have shovel-ready sites," Rainbolt said.

Burks is working with Rainbolt to rectify that deficit.

In 2014, Bellevue voters granted the city permission to use up to \$750,000 of general fund revenue to develop the 5,000 acres in what has become known as the Highway 34 Corridor.

The city in the two years following voter approval, assigned only \$250,000 a year to developing the corridor. This month, the City Council authorized the full \$750,000 for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Although the city's frugal investment in the area until the next budget cycle has met with criticism, progress is being made.

The city is installing infrastructure that will open an estimated 500 acres along the west side of Harlan Lewis Road north of the Highway 75 bridge over the Mis-

souri River. Specifically, the infrastructure is being installed for 62 city-owned

See Development: Page 2

Development

Continued from Page 1

acres west of the World Baseball Village.

Cunningham Road, the gravel road that accesses the area, is being paved.

As an actual shovel-ready site, within shouting distance of Interstate 29 and U.S. Highway 75, Burks hopes it will serve as a catalyst, as the breakthrough project that will cause other industries to jump on board the Bellevue Express. Rainbolt is optimistic, too.

"That's not a bad site," he said. "A lot of the projects that come to us require only five to 10 acres."

Rainbolt said the lack of large-scale industrial development in Bellevue is puzzling brokers who understand that such sites are in short supply in the metro-

politan Omaha area.

Rainbolt suggests it's a risk dilemma in which companies won't locate in the Highway 34 corridor until they see that other companies have experienced success there.

The I-80 corridor in western Sarpy County is replete with such success stories, he said, and therefore inspires confidence, but Bellevue's Highway 34 remains a question mark despite its direct connection to Interstate 29.

"We just haven't had enough transactions happen down there for people to feel confident in taking a risk," he said. "The city will have to find some way to reduce the risk for people willing to pioneer that area."

That, Burks said, is what the city is trying to do with its 62 acres. Instead of asking developers to carry the cost of installing infrastructure, and then have the money essentially refunded in property tax forgiveness, the city wants to provide an SCEDC-approved, shovel-ready site.

The hardest part of that process, Burks said, is likely to be acquiring the 5,000 acres from its various private owners, or at least purchasing options.

"Without land control it's very hard to market a property," he said. "The infrastructure we can do."



Burks



Photo by Eugene Curtin

The road ahead: Cunningham Road, currently gravel, but scheduled to be paved, carries the hope of major industrial development on 5,000 acres south of Offutt Air Force Base. The City of Bellevue and the Sarpy County Economic Development Corporation are collaborating to make the area "shovel ready."

GUIDE-NEWS

GRETNA, Nebraska

Circulation:

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Date:

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Wednesday, September 20, 201

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New housing development and lake for Gretna

Derek Munyon Staff Writer

A new housing development, Lakeview, is being built on the corner of 204th St. and Schram Rd. The 75 acre development will offer 55 lots for a starter home community, 110 upscale residential lots and a gated retirement community for residents over 55 years old. The starter homes will range in price from \$275-300,000 and the higher scale homes will be \$375,000 and up. The houses will be cottage style, with the retirement community featuring triplex townhomes with yard and snow removal services.

The new development, by McCune Development, is being planned around an NRD lake that will be open to the public and is supposed to include a boat ramp.

Paul McCune said that he has McCune said. owned the land for over 10 years and has been waiting for the NRD to move along on the lake so he could begin his development. The lake is expected to be 25 acres, yet they are planning the capacity for approximately 40 acres, in cases of flooding.

"We thought we'd push it along by presenting our development plans to the NRD," McCune said.

The development will be a six to eight year project. There is a five year window for the beginning of the construction of the lake. The NRD lake hasn't begun yet because a lot of their projects slowed down when a bond issue didn't pass. The NRD is expected to put in flood controls for lakeside homes to fight downstream flooding. McCune said that the new lake will be "a feather in our cap."

"This lake is going to be phe- Development nomenal for the city of Gretna,"

McCune said that Gretna's schools and small town feel is what draws people to the city. He added that he's a Gretna guy and likes to

work on quality projects and homes for the city.

"It's grown a lot, but Gretna is still Gretna," McCune said.



Drawing courtesy of Michelle Zimmerman, McCune

BREEZE

GRETNA, Nebraska

Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017

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Lakeview development moves forward with Council approval

By Rachel George

Gretna Breeze Editor

Preliminary plans for the Lakeview residential development, which drew community concern at the Aug. 22 Planning Commission meeting, were approved Sept. 19 by the Gretna City Council.

The project, proposed by McCune Development LLC, is slated for 179 lots and 12 outlots on about 76 acres between 204th and 210th streets on an extension of Schram Road. Called a "first-class subdivision" by developer Paul McCune, it is expected to include a retirement community along with a number of homes valued between \$300,000 and \$600,000.

Contingent on the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District's plans for the proposed West Papio 4 reservoir project, the development would not break ground for another year as developers wait for the NRD to submit a design plan, expected to be finished in the spring.

McCune said the Lakeview project will help push along NRD work on the lake area, which is to include a boat ramp, essentially speeding up a solution for residents with flood control concerns. The developer has offered a deferred land payment and other resources to help the NRD with the project, estimated to cost about \$10 million to obtain land and build the dam near 204th Street and Schram Road.

Residents of the Forest Run subdivision voiced support but suggested improvements be made to 204th Street prior to development because of increased traffic and other issues associated with a denser population. They also questioned an increase in stormwater runoff and silt already affecting residents of the low-lying neighborhood.

Council members recognized public concern, but ultimately placed faith in McCune, whom they commended for his work on Covington subdivision and similar projects.

Also at the Sept. 19 meeting, the City Council took the following actions:

 Set the property tax request and adopted the 2017-18 budget. The levy is 46.89 cents per \$100 valuation and has not changed in the past 10 years. The tax rate is also 46.89 cents. The owner of a \$150,000 home will pay about \$703.

The city budget includes about \$26 million in operating expenses and a number of projects: a new Public Works building, continuing work on the South Sewer Project, and roadwork on 204th and 216th streets.

- Approved the preliminary and final plat for the Weeks Subdivision, generally located between Highway 6 and Standing Stone Drive north of Schram Road. The request by Weeks, Woodruff Investments LLC was a replat of two existing lots that adjusted the lot line about 10 feet between the lots.
- Approved a final plat and rezoning for the Aspen Creek North subdivision, generally located southwest of 186th Street and Cornhusker Road. The request by BHI Development Inc. included the final plat for lots 1 through 147 plus 14 outlots as well as rezoning from TA and AG to R-2.
- Approved a preliminary and final plat of the subdivision to be known as Aspen Creek Replat 1. The request
 by BHI Development Inc. included commercial lots 1
 through 5 and outlots A and B, located in the northeast
 corner of 186th Street and Highway 370. The purchase of
 adjoining land allowed lot sizes to increase, prompting
 the replat.
- Åpproved a preliminary plat and rezone for a subdivision to be known as Burlington Park at Gretna Station, on property currently owned by the City of Gretna located north of Highway 370 and near 200th Street. The request by Gretna Industrial Park LLC included a rezoning request for some lots to go from I-2 and GC to I-1 with others remaining I-2.
- Approved amendments to special designated liquor licenses for Local Beer, Patio and Kitchen at Nebraska Crossing Outlet Mall. The licenses allow for the business to serve beer, wine and liquor at special tasting events.
- Approved a bid proposal for landscaping and plantings, part of Highway 370 median improvements.
- Approved the South Sarpy Sanitary Sewer Agreement and United Cities Lobbying Agreement.
- Approved 12 new Gretna Fire Department volunteers: Amanda Curran, Katie Hurd, Mariah Otten, Austin Brake, Cory Van Barcom, Jacob Lanphear, Joshua Rutter, Hans Madsen, Shelby Preister, Kristen Kroeker, Chris Weddel and Daniel Rich.

DAKOTA CO. STAR

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Nebraska

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017

Frequency: WEEKLY

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DAKOTA CITY WELCOMES PMRNRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



COURTESY NRD

Alyssa Silhacek (standing left), City Administrator for Dakota City, welcomes the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) Board of Directors and General Manager, John Winkler, to the area and reports on Dakota City's activities throughout the past year at the annual September Board Meeting held at the USDA Service and Natural Resource Center in Dakota City. In addition to the board meeting, a public hearing was held to set the property tax levy and adopt the fiscal year 2018 operating budget. The budget calls for an estimated \$23 million in revenue from the NRD's property tax levy. Total spending is estimated at \$66.7 million. This is the 12th consecutive year that the NRD has held steady or reduced its property tax levy.

OMAHA, Nebraska

Date: Friday, September 29, 2017

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Nebraskans riding with national bike commuter trends

by Becky McCarville

Bike commuting is gaining momentum nationwide. Since 2005, there has been, on average, a 46 percent increase in how many people are biking to work in the U.S., according to a recently released report by the League of American Bicyclists.

The national trend holds true for this state. Nebraska ranks 21st out of the 50 states for the number of people who bike to work. Omaha ranks 44th in terms of top largest cities for people who bike to work, but ranks No. 5 for cities with fastest growth, experiencing a 300 percent jump from 2000 to 2016. Lincoln is among the top 20 cities in the Midwest for bicycle commuting, coming in at No. 11.

"It's very easy to compare ourselves to Minneapolis or Denver or all these places where it's a boom for bicyclists - it feels like we're not making progress," said Julie Harris, executive director of the Nebraska Bicycling Alliance, "To see this census data really helps. We're really making progress. Bike sharing is taking

off in Omaha and coming to Lincoln soon. These things all come together and help the cause."

Sarah Johnson, owner of Omaha Bicycle Co. in Benson and vice chair of Mode Shift Omaha, a transportation equity nonprofit, said that her company's biggest growth segment is from electric bikes, or e-bikes,

We've been selling them like hotcakes," Johnson said.

Johnson switched to an e-bike out of necessity last year after an injury and stint in the hospital, and now rides one to work every day, year-round.

'Hot, not sweaty," is the e-bike mantra, she said. "A lot of people don't want to just show up at work drenched in the middle of summer.

Over the years Johnson has worked with transportation consultants from different states who believe that "Omaha as a city needs to get people on board with e-bikes because the topography here is a challenge.

Sharing the road with cars is another big challenge, Johnson

"A lot of people are nervous to get out in traffic and ride," she added.

That's why Omaha Bicycle Co. offers safe cycling commuting classes and basic maintenance classes. Mode Shift Omaha also educates the general public on

Photos by MBJ / Becky McCarville

how to share the road and the rights and responsibilities that come with riding for transpor-

Creating bike friendly cities

The Nebraska Bicycling Alliance works at the legislative and state level to get policies and laws in place so that cities can more easily make bicycle-friendly improvements. For example the Three-foot Passing Law requires

motorists to give no less than three feet of space when passing a bicycle.

"We're doing stuff on the state level that trickles down and helps cities be more bike friend-Harris said.

Omaha's trails have separated grade crossings, providing added safety for bicyclists because they don't have to cross streets.

"Many people in Omaha don't realize what a wonderful feature this is, and how rare this type of design is across the country," said Eric Williams, Papio Missouri NRD's natural resources planner.

The most recently completed section of the South Omaha Trail connects from the end of the Field Club Trail and provides a continuous connection from the Keystone Trail to UNMC. This has a major impact because it

runs east to west, while most trails in Omaha go north to south.

"Papio Missouri NRD has done phenomenal work making little trail connections here and there that increase the ability to access the trails that we already have and extend to more areas, Harris said.

In Lincoln, Nebraska's first protected bike lane, the N Street cycle Track, opened last year. The track connects the Pinnacle Bank Arena and Havmarket District to the Antelope Valley Trails, running 17 blocks along the south side of "N" Street from 23rd Street to Arena Drive.

Lincoln's N Street Cycle Track "is the gold standard and the future of bike infrastructure,' Harris said. "It's separated and protected space and it helps the people that bike be more safe and feel more safe, and helps drivers [know where to drive]. Physical

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page. separation improves safety tremendously.

More trails, more riders

No matter the reason whether commuting, exercising, socializing or out of necessity more Nebraskans are getting out and riding their bikes.

Dan Hill, owner of Bike Masters near 129th and Fort streets, said that the paved trails have grown well, but there's room for improvement.

"One thing that people don't realize so much are the nature trails that we have here in Omaha," he said. "The nature trails around this area ... are great for riding mountain bikes or any bicycle that can handle nature-type trails, and those are wonderful because you're away from traffic. you're away from the hustle and bustle.

Trends like long distance road biking come and go, Hill said, but he sees a lot of potential and growth in servicing bikes and in itive events like triathlons. He

said that when gas prices were at \$4 per gallon, he had more commuter-based customers, but that spike has tapered off at his store.

Ed Kirby, co-owner of Olympia Cycle, said that the midtown store at 40th and Hamilton streets has more commuter customers than the Millard Lumbervard District location.

"Everybody down there is riding downtown to work," Kirby said. "We have no east-west bike paths --- everything is following creeks and they're all running from the north to the south. It's tough out here. We do have a few commuters but they probably were lucky in the location where they live in regard to their work so they can get on a

bike path."

Olympia Cycle's biggest growth has been in hybrid bicycles because they're user friendly and people can ride on varied surfaces. Kirby said they will start carrying electric bikes in spring 2018.

"We probably sold our first electric bike 20 years ago, but they've improved motors and the batteries so much that now they're faster, easier to use and they run longer," he said.

Planning for future connections

Future plans for added trails around the Omaha metro are in the works, including construction on an extension of the West Papio Trail to start in spring 2018 with completion by fall 2018. This section will connect from 108th Street and Giles Road, under I-80, following Harry Andersen Ave., up to the south side of Q Street,

providing direct trail access to the mixed-use Lumbervard District in Millard, Williams said. Preliminary design is in process for a trail bridge across the Platte River along the east half of Hwy 34/75 bridge. Williams said the existing piers were deoutfitting customers for compet- signed to allow a separated trail

OMAHA, Nebraska

Date: Friday, September 29, 2017

Frequency: WEEKLY Circulation: 5000

Clip Size: 210.02 sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$60 Page/Section: 26

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bridge to be constructed, and the initial girder placement will be included as part of the Nebraska Department of Transportation's (NDOT) road surface work. The trail deck will be constructed as a separate project in the future, providing protected access between the county roads on the north and south sides of the Platte River.

north and south sides of the Platte River.

"The NRD offers cost share funding to local government agencies through a series of programs, including the Trails Assistance Program," Williams said. "By collaborating with cities, counties, and even SIDs, we have been able to help fund many local neighborhood trail projects."



Owner Sarah Johnson at Omaha Bicycle Co. in Benson.



Executive Director Julie Harris of Nebraska Bicycling Alliance ... Making Nebraska cities more bike friendly through legislation, street planning and design, bike sharing, trails and advocacy.

OMAHA, Nebraska

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Barista Mattie Strong measures out house-made hazelnut syrup at Omaha Bicycle Co.



Papio NRD's Natural Resources Planner Eric Williams at the South Omaha Trail near 35th and Vinton streets.

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Olympia Cycle's Ed Kirby at the Lumberyard District location in Millard.



Owner Dan Hill services a bike at Bike Masters at 129th and Fort streets.

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Master bike mechanic Jim Pattavina checks the gears on a Blix electric bike at Omaha Bicycle Co.

WORLD-HERALD (AM)

OMAHA, Nebraska

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Frequency: DAILY 104958 Circulation:

26.21 Clip Size: sq. inches

Ad Rate: \$162.00 Page/Section: B 0001



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Path over Platte to preserve link between Sarpy, Cass Counties

New trail for bicyclists and pedestrians will replace route becoming illegal due to widening of highway

By EMILY NITCHER WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A new path over the Platte River is in the works for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Several governmental entities have teamed up to build a bike and walking path along the Highway 34/75 Platte River bridge to keep a connection between Sarpy and Cass Counties.

A number of bicycle commuters start in Cass County and ride to work at Offutt Air Force Base or Omaha along the current highway, officials said. But their route will soon become illegal.

The highway is being widened into a freeway, with work scheduled to be completed in 2019.

State law prohibits bike and pedestrian traffic on freeways. So when the road is widened, the nearest Platte River crossing for bicyclists or pedestrians will be 11 miles to the west, along Highway 50 at Louisville.

To prevent losing the connection between Sarpy and Cass Counties,

government agencies teamed up. The new path along the bridge will be short but will preserve a critical link between the two cit-ies and the rest of the metro area, Greg Youell, executive director of the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metro-politan Area Planning Agency, explained in a letter.

The path will extend from Allied Road in Bellevue, over the river and to Beach Road in Plattsmouth.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation will construct girders to support the bike path along the bridge as part of its highway project.
In return, MAPA will give half

Trail: Bellevue. Plattsmouth, Cass, Sarpy and two NRDs team up

Continued from Page 1

the cost of the girders, about \$700,000, to a state transportation

project in the future.

The first phase of the project is estimated to cost \$1.4 million and start in 2018. Phase two is estimated to take three to five years and cost \$2 million, with 80 percent of the cost covered by federal funding.

The remaining 20 percent would be provided by Bellevue and Plattsmouth, Sarpy and Cass Counties, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.

Maintenance of the path would also be divided up among the en-

Julie Harris, executive director of Nebraska Bicycling Alliance, said the bridge construction provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get a bike path established. She said the path could fit into future trail networks and will be safer for bicycle commuters.

emily.nitcher@owh.com, 402-444-1192











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Bridging the gap in Cass County











Updated: 6:18 PM CDT Oct 3, 2017





BELLEVUE, Nebraska

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4700

Ad Rate: \$48.13 Page/Section: A 0006

23.52 sq. inches



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Hiking/biking trail to be constructed over Platte River

By Eugene Curtin

Leader Associate Editor

million hiking and biking percent of the cost with the trail across the Platte River remaining \$400,000 covis the subject of an inter- ered by local participating local agreement between government agencies. three Sarpy County governing bodies, the City of Papio NRD will ty and the Lower Platte levue, South Natural Resources County \$40,000, the Low-District.

Board of Commissioners signed off on the proposal on Sept. 19 while the Bellevue City Council follead agency for the project is the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources Dis-

Highway 75/Highway 34 Papio NRD, the cost of rebridge as it crosses from Sarpy County into Cass

tan Area Planning Agen-

Phase 2 will be the concluding bridge abutments, the agreement.

concrete decking, rails and fencing at an estimated cost of \$2 million. Federal An approximately \$2 aid is expected to cover 80

Of the \$400,000, the Plattsmouth, Cass Coun- \$200,000, the City of Bel-\$60,000, er Platte NRD, \$40,000, Sarpy County Cass County, \$32,000 and f Commissioners the City of Plattsmouth, \$28,000.

Responsibility for clearing snow and debris from lowed suit on Sept. 25. The the completed trail will rotate between Sarpy County, Cass County, the City of Bellevue and the City of Plattsmouth.

The trail will be built Although the trail will along the east side of the technically belong to the pairing and maintaining it will be shared among the local agencies, with The first phase will be the Papio NRD paying 25 erecting the girders that percent, the City of Bellevwill support the trail, the ue and Sarpy County each cost of which will be borne paying 20 percent, the entirely by the Nebraska Lower Platte NRD pay-Department of Transporing 15 percent and Cass tation and the Metropoli- County and the City of Plattsmouth each paying 10 percent.

No timeline for construction of the trail, in- struction is provided in